

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035427

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, TU

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ON TURKEY AND CYPRUS

REF: ANKARA 859 AND PREVIOUS

1. TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL, ON INSTRUCTIONS, CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST FEBRUARY 8 TO EXPRESS GOT CONCERNS AND OBJECTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIC SECTIONS OF DEPARTMENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ON TURKEY AND CYPRUS. TEXTS OF TALKING POINTS PAPERS USED BY ESENBEL ARE BEING SENT SEPT-TELS.

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2. ESENBEL EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR DEPARTMENT EFFORTS TO MODIFY OBJECTIONABLE SECTIONS OF DRAFT REPORT ON TURKEY WHICH HAD BEEN PROVIDED GOT JANUARY 30.

3. ESENBEL'S DEMARCHE ON TURKEY REPORT CLOSELY PARALLELED

THAT GIVEN EMBASSY BY MFA (ANKARA 859). ONE ADDITIONAL CONCERN WAS OBJECTION TO INCLUSION OF STATEMENT BY ARMENIAN PATRIARCH (EVEN THOUGH ITS SUBSTANCE WAS GENERALLY POSITIVE IN TONE), BECAUSE IMPRESSION WAS GIVEN THAT PATRIARCH HAD A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE TURKISH POLITICAL STRUCTURE WHICH HAS NOT BEEN THE CASE SINCE OTTOMAN TIMES. THE GOT CONSIDERS THE PROTECTION OF CHRISTIAN MINORITIES, PROVIDED BY THE LAUSANNE TREATY, AS ONE OF THE LOCAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF

THE GOVERNOR OF ISTANBUL.

4. ESENBEL DWELT AT LENGTH ON REFERENCE IN REPORT TO KURDS. HE SAID TURKS DO NOT CONSIDER KURDS A MINORITY. REFERENCE TO KURDS IN REPORT IN GOT VIEW APPEARS TO SUGGEST A DELIBERATE POLICY OF US INTERFERENCE IN TURKISH INTERNAL AFFAIRS. ESENBEL NOTED THAT SUCH STATEMENTS ALSO PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF OTHER PARTIES. TWO EXAMPLES CITED WERE A BOOK BY A RETIRED GREEK GENERAL WHICH HAD ENCOURAGED KURDISH SEPARATISM AND WAS NOW BEING SERIALIZED IN GREEK CYPRIOT NEWSPAPER SIMERINI; AND A SPECIAL SECTION (HEADED BY EROL MEHMET BODAMYA) OF THE GREEK CYPRIOT EDEK PARTY ESTABLISHED, ACCORDING TO THE GOT, TO ACTIVATE ARMENIANS AND KURDS AGAINST TURKEY.

5. ESENBEL SAID THAT REFERENCE IN THE REPORT TO THE 1925 KURDISH UPRISING HAVING QUOTE THREATENED THE STABILITY AND UNITY OF EASTERN TURKEY UNQUOTE, WAS MOST DAMAGING
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AND DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND. ESENBEL SAID THAT 1925 UPRISING HAD BEEN INSTIGATED BY BRITISH AND HAD RESULTED IN LOSS OF 10,000 TURKISH SOLDIERS. REGARDING KURDS HE COUNSELED:QUOTE NOBODY SHOULD PLAY WITH FIRE; IT IS NOT GOOD TO FOMENT TROUBLE; THE REACTION OF THE TURKS IS NOT MEASURABLE UNQUOTE.

6. WITH REGARD TO REFERENCE IN CYPRUS REPORT TO FINDINGS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, ESENBEL SAID GOT HAD SERIES OF OBJECTIONS: REPORT CONTAINS UNVERIFIED INFORMATION AND IS STILL SUPPOSED TO BE CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT. REPORT HAD NOT CLEARLY EXPLAINED COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROCEDURES NOR HAD IT MADE CLEAR PRECISELY WHAT ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON COMMISSION REPORT. ESENBEL ALSO THOUGHT DEPARTMENT'S CYPRUS REPORT SHOULD HAVE FULLY COVERED ENTIRE 1963-1974 PERIOD, SHOULD HAVE FAVORABLY NOTED PROGRESS TOWARD ESTABLISHING MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE, AND SHOULD HAVE NOTED FAVORABLE TURKISH ATTITUDE TOWARD MOVEMENT BETWEEN TWO SECTORS ON CYPRUS BY THIRD COUNTRY PERSONS.

7. VEST RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD NOT SPEAK SPECIFICALLY TO EACH POINT RAISED, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT IN WRITING THESE REPORTS DEPARTMENT HAD TRIED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION TURKISH SENSITIVITIES TO EXTENT POSSIBLE. REPORTS WERE NOW WITH CONGRESS AND COULD NOT BE CHANGED.

WITH RESPECT TO KURDS, VEST ASSURED ESENBEL THAT US POLICY REMAINED ONE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF TURKEY. HE RECALLED THAT SECRETARY HAD REITERATED THIS POSITION WITH SPECIFIC RESPECT TO KURDS IN HIS TALKS WITH

PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT RECENTLY IN ANKARA. WE HAD NO INTENTION OF DOING ANYTHING THAT WOULD LEAD TO FURTHER DIFFICULTIES FOR ANY TURKISH GOVERNMENT WITH RESPECT TO THIS QUESTION.

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VEST PROMISED THAT WE WOULD TAKE NOTE OF THE POINTS RAISED BY ESENBEL AND TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE KEEP THESE POINTS IN MIND IN THE FUTURE. WE HAD NO DESIRE TO CREATE FRICTION OR ADD TO ANY DIFFICULTIES FOR ANY PARTY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AREA. WE REGRET IF THAT SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED IN CONNECTION WITH THESE REPORTS OR IF THERE WERE PERHAPS MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

WITH REGARD TO REFERENCE IN THE CYPRUS REPORT TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS' FINDINGS, IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT BECAUSE ACCOUNTS OF THIS REPORT HAD LONG BEEN IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN THROUGH PRESS STORIES, IT WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO INCLUDE SOME REFERENCE TO IT. WE FELT BOUND TO INCLUDE ALLEGATIONS AS WELL AS FACTS. VANCE

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